

CIA/RR GP 60-23:2L
8 February 1960

TOURIST, INDUSTRIAL, AND PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES

IN AREA 4 (KAPUSTIN YAR-VLADIMIROVKA)*

Caspian Lowland

Northern part; contains many small salt lakes, some containing the mineral astrakhanite, a variety of blodite (a hydrous sodium magnesium sulfate); cryohalite or frozen salt, a rare mineral, also found in these lakes.

Ozero Baskunchak (48°12'N-46°54'E)

Supplies approximately 30 percent of salt (NaCl) used in USSR.

Gypsum mined south of the lake.

Shelter belts of saksaul trees being planted near the lake; 17,000 hectares of tree plantings scheduled for 1959.

Halophytic vegetation typical of salt lakes found around periphery of lake.

Caves reported on high northwestern and southern shores of the lake.

Deposits of ochre suitable for use as a pigment in paint located on southwestern shore of the lake.

Bogdinskaya Scientific Research Experimental Station near southern shore of the lake; work on improvement of soil and moisture conditions in the semidesert; experimental crops of vegetables and grains grown without irrigation between strips of dense forest.

Ozero El'ton (49°16'N-46°35'E)

Largest salt lake in USSR.

Salt extracted used primarily for industrial purposes because of high potassium, magnesium, and bromine content.

Plant producing bromine and bromine salts located in the settlement of El'ton.

* The following information on tourist objectives can be considered unclassified when an item is extracted individually.

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Several mineral spring resorts (spas) reportedly in operation; present status unknown.

Petropavlovskiy (48°15'N-46°10'E)

Seven salt mills; processing of salt from Ozero Baskunchak; salt loaded into wooden barges for shipment on Volga River.

Zaplavnoye (48°42'N-45°01'E)

Extensive irrigation project underway near settlement in 1952; is an area of submarginal agriculture that experiences droughts one year out of every four.